

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: "CONSTITUTIONAL" PARTIES APPORTION PARLIAMENTARY  
COMMITTEE PRESIDENCIES

SUMMARY: AFTER PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS CLOSELY LINKED TO ANDREOTTI'S EFFORTS TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT, THE HEADS OF THE "CONSTITUTIONAL" PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT LATE JULY 26 ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE 26 PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE PRESIDENCIES. AS PREDICTED, THE PCI ACQUIRED COMMITTEE PRESIDENCIES FOR THE FIRST TIME (4 IN THE CHAMBER AND 3 IN THE SENATE), THE MOST SIGNIFICANT BEING THE CHAMBER'S FINANCE COMMITTEE. WITH FIVE PRESIDENCIES EACH IN THE CHAMBER AND SENATE, THE DC SUCCESSFULLY COUNTERED PCI PRESSURE FOR POLITICAL/SECURITY COMMITTEES (FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENSE OR INTERIOR). NUMERICALLY, THE SOCIALISTS PAID THE GREATEST PRICE (DOWN FROM 8 TO 5, REFLECTING JUNE 20 LOSSES) IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ROOM FOR PCI ENTRANTS, BUT NONETHELESS RECEIVED IMPORTANT COMMITTEES: DEFENSE IN THE CHAMBER AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THE SENATE. HEADS OF MIXED COMMITTEES (INCLUDING LOCKHEED INQUIRY'S INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE) NOT EXPECTED TO BE APPORTIONED UNTIL JULY 29. END SUMMARY.

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1. AFTER PROLONGED NEGOTIATIONS, THE HEADS OF THE DC, PCI, AND PSI PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS REACHED AGREEMENT LATE JULY 26 ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE PRESIDENCIES OF THE 26 PERMANENT COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. THE ACCORD WAS IMMEDIATELY RATIFIED BY THE REPUBLICANS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. THE LIBERALS (WHO BECAUSE OF THEIR SIZE HAD OPTED OUT OF THE INTER-PARTY NEGOTIATIONS) RESERVED THEIR POSITION UNTIL THE NEW PERMANENT COMMITTEE PRESIDENTS WERE FORMALLY ELECTED JULY 27.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE NUMERICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE COMMITTEE PRESIDENCIES, TWO POINTS ARE SIGNIFICANT. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE BEEN ACCORDED COMMITTEE PRESIDENCIES FOR THE FIRST TIME. MOREOVER, ALTHOUGH IT WAS WIDELY REPORTED THAT THE PCI HAD ASKED FOR 8 COMMITTEES (4 EACH IN THE CHAMBER AND SENATE), THEY RECEIVED 7 (4 IN THE CHAMBER AND 3 IN THE SENATE). SECONDLY, WHEREAS THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS MORE OR LESS HELD THEIR OWN NUMERICALLY (LOSING ONE EACH IN THE CHAMBER AND SENATE FOR A NEW TOTAL OF 10), THE SOCIALISTS GAVE UP THE LARGEST NUMBER OF PRESIDENCIES (REFLECTING THE JUNE 20 LOSSES) TO THE COMMUNISTS. THUS, THE PSI DROPPED FROM 4 TO 3 IN THE CHAMBER AND FROM 4 TO 2 IN THE SENATE. IN ADDITION, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS LOST 1 IN THE CHAMBER (DOWN TO 1), WHILE RETAINING THEIR ONE PRESIDENCY IN THE SENATE; THE PRI PRESERVED THEIR 1 CHAMBER AND 1 SENATE PRESIDENCIES. (IN THE PREVIOUS LEGISLATURE, ONE COMMITTEE HAD BEEN HEADED BY THE DC-ORIENTED "MIXED GROUP.")

3. IN THE CHAMBER, THE DC WILL HEAD FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JUSTICE, BUDGET, AGRICULTURE, AND HEALTH (5). THE PCI RECEIVED CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, FINANCE AND TREASURY, PUBLIC WORKS, AND TRANSPORTATION (4). THE SOCIALISTS HAVE DEFENSE, INDUSTRY, AND LABOR (3). INTERNAL AFFAIRS WENT TO PRI, AND THE PSDI GOT EDUCATION.

4. IN THE SENATE, THE DC HAS INTERNAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, FINANCE AND TREASURY, PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION, INDUSTRY, AND LABOR (5). THE PCI RECEIVED BUDGET, AGRICULTURE, AND HEALTH (3). THE PSI HEADS FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE (2). DEFENSE WENT TO THE PSDI AND EDUCATION TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE PRI.

5. THE CHAIRMANSIPS OF THE MIXED COMMITTEES WILL NOT BE DISTRIBUTED UNTIL THURSDAY, JULY 29. BESIDES RADIO/TV, MEZZOGIORNO, AND REGIONS, THE MIXED COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS IS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IN VIEW OF THE LOCKHEED INQUIRY.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE INCLUSION OF THE PCI PARLIAMEN-

TARIANS AS HEADS OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES MUST BE SEEN AS PART OF THE NEW ITALIAN POLITICAL PACKAGE (FOLLOWING ELECTION OF THE PCI'S INGRAO AS PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER), THE DC OBVIOUSLY FOUGHT HARD TO REDUCE THE DAMAGE. THE PCI HAD BEEN LOBBYING TENACIOUSLY, FOR EXAMPLE, TO RECEIVE ONE OF THE MORE IMPORTANT AND PRESTIGIOUS POLITICAL/SECURITY COMMITTEES (FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTERIOR OR DEFENSE). HERE THE DC OBVIOUSLY DREW THE LINE. WHILE THE PCI DIDN'T RECEIVE ALL IT WANTED, IT MUST OBVIOUSLY REGARD THE JULY 26 PARLIAMENTARY AGREEMENT AS A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT. NOT ONLY HAS THE PCI INCREASED ITS PRESTIGE AS A PARTY THAT MUST BE CONSULTED, BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT HAS MEASURABLY ENHANCED THE DEGREE OF ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE PARLIAMENTARY PROCESS.

7. THE PCI DID OBTAIN THE INFLUENTIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE IN THE HOUSE, PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT GIVEN THE GROWING ROLE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ECONOMIC COMMITTEES ON GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS. CORRIERE DELLA SERA, FOR EXAMPLE, RECENTLY OBSERVED THAT SINCE THE LAST SESSIONS OF THE SIXTH LEGISLATURE, THERE HAS HARDLY BEEN A FISCAL PROPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT WHICH THE CHAMBER DIDN'T MODIFY IN SOME SIGNIFICANT WAY. VOLPE

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